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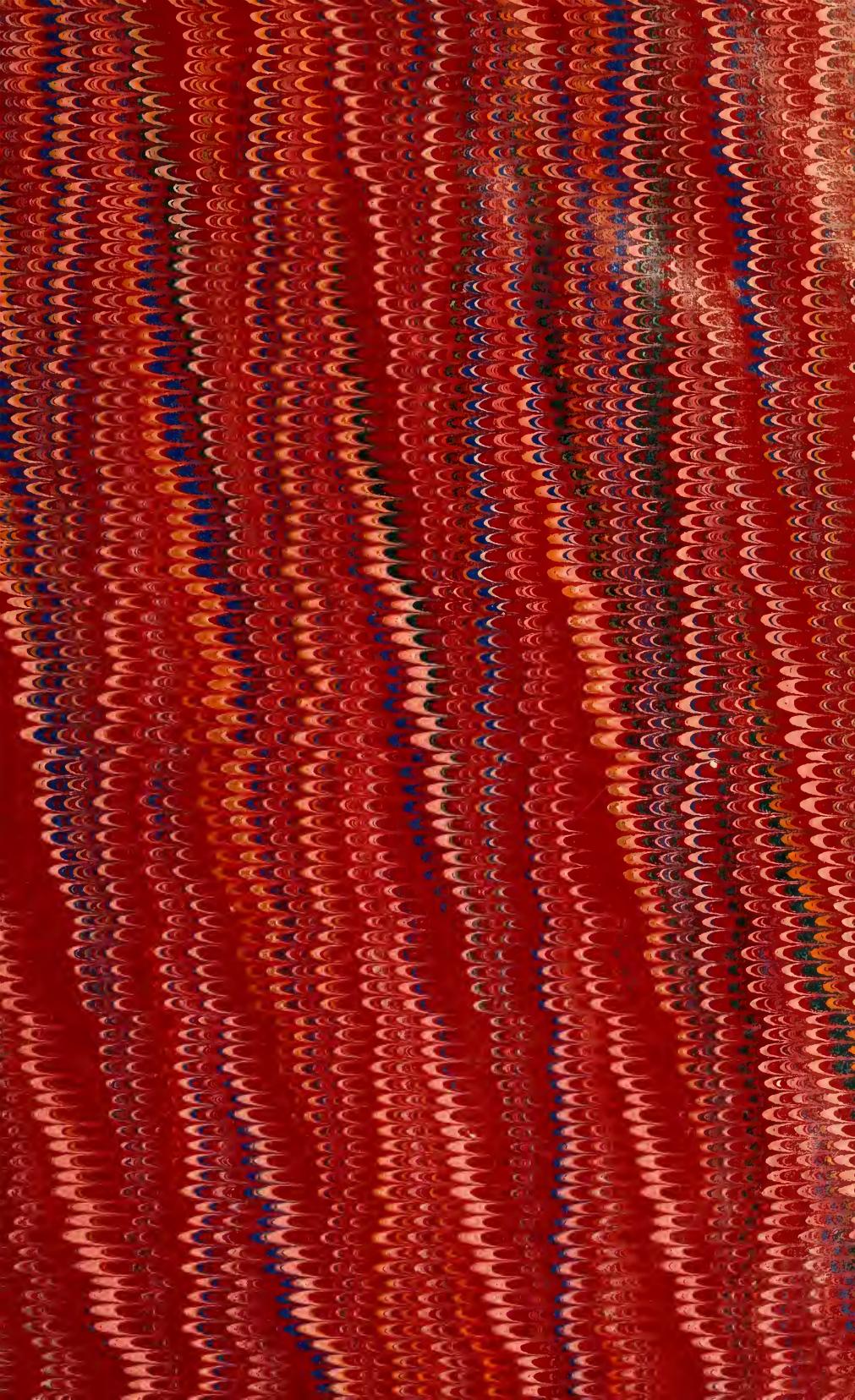
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



A D D R E S S

OF

HON. DAVID WALKER,

OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS,

ON THE

HISTORY AND RESOURCES OF THE STATE,

BY APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR GARLAND,

AT JUDGES' HALL,

CENTENNIAL GROUNDS, PHILADELPHIA,

October 16, 1876.

PHILADELPHIA:
COLLINS, PRINTER, 705 JAYNE STREET.
1876.

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ADDRESS.

It has been deemed by the United States Government a fit occasion at the close of the Centennial year of American Independence, for the States and territories of the nation to assemble near the spot where the British Colonies renounced all further allegiance to the government of Great Britain, and declared themselves a free and independent people; to celebrate the occasion, and to bring with them, and present specimens of their mineral and agricultural wealth, and indicate their advancement in the arts, sciences, mechanics, and general prosperity. And it was also deemed proper to invite the civilized nations to join us in this celebration, and in this competitive exhibition. This invitation has been accepted by thirty-eight independent nations, who, through their representatives, have come to join us in commemorating the birth-day of the nation; to mark the power, the capacity, and success of our nation, under a government based upon the great principles of civil liberty then announced; to examine the mineral and vegetable products of the earth; to note the progress that we have made in the arts and sciences; and to measure them by an exhibition of their own; ours, the product of a nation of an hundred years' growth; theirs, of many centuries.

We should pass no judgment upon the comparative merits of any, but when we look around upon this vast exhibition, with all its wealth of earth, of mind, and of genius, we cannot but feel encouraged by the result and impelled to a higher destiny. This very brief reference to the occasion and its surroundings must suffice. I come by invitation and executive appointment to speak of and for the State of Arkansas; of her early history and inhabitants; of her climate, rivers, mountains, and plains; of her vast forests of timber; her mineral and agricultural products; of her undeveloped capacities, exhaustless resources, and of her prospective future.

First Inhabitants of Arkansas.

Of the first inhabitants of the country we know nothing further than that, at its earliest exploration by a civilized people, it was in-

habited by uncivilized Indians. They were here when Hernando De Soto (a Spaniard), in the month of May, 1541, crossed the Mississippi River at the lower Chickasaw Bluffs. After crossing, he, with his followers, passed out to the St. Francis, and up that river, and, as is asserted by some historians, spent the winter in New Madrid, near the southern line of the State of Missouri. By others, it is said, that he only spent about forty days there, and explored the country west for about two hundred miles, into the northwestern part of Arkansas, and from there in a southeastern direction, across the Arkansas River, where he wintered; from thence in an eastern direction to the Mississippi River, where he sickened and died. One of his followers, Louis De Moscoso, succeeded him in command, and continued his excursion through the southern part of Arkansas into Texas. But if we are to give credit to an account of De Soto's expedition into Arkansas, published by B. F. French in his historical recollections of Louisiana, and more particularly of a map which accompanied it, and which designates the route travelled by De Soto, it would seem that, after crossing the Mississippi River, and passing up the St. Francis, De Soto returned, and crossed the Arkansas River near its mouth, and continued to explore the country southwest of the Arkansas River to the Ouachita River, and probably some distance beyond it. But, be this as it may, the travel of De Soto over the territory of Arkansas is of but little importance, since he has left nowhere any evidences of civilized travel or occupation within the limits of the State. It was more than one hundred and forty years after De Soto's death, before any expedition, either to explore or settle the country, was made.

In 1673, Monsieur Talon, the French Governor of Canada, sent Marquette and Joliet to explore the Mississippi River and find its mouth. They proceeded down the Mississippi to the mouth of the Arkansas River, and without exploring the country, or attempting its settlement, returned to Canada. After their return, Robert, Cavalier De La Salle, who was commissioned for the same purpose, explored the Mississippi River to its mouth, and in the month of April, 1682, took formal possession of the great valley of the Mississippi, in the name of the French government. Soon after this, French settlements were formed in the territory of Illinois, Missouri, and one within the present limits of Arkansas, which was made in 1685, by some eight or ten Canadian French who, upon the return of De Tonti from an unsuccessful effort to find La Salle, left these Canadians a short distance up the Arkansas, at a point called the Post of Arkansas. The first location of this post is supposed by some to have been

about three leagues below the point long known as the Post of Arkansas. Mr. Robert W. Trimble, who has been collecting materials for a history of Arkansas (and to whom I am under many obligations for valuable information in preparing this address), claims to have evidence that the first location of the post was on the south side of the river, and from his learning and research I cannot doubt that he has documentary evidence to sustain him in the assertion.

In July, 1687, a few of the survivors of the ill-fated La Salle, in his second expedition, ascended the Mississippi to the mouth of the Arkansas River, and joined their countrymen. On the 14th of September, 1712, letters patent were granted by the French government to Monsieur Cozort, conferring upon him exclusive control of Louisiana in its commercial and military relations, which command he soon after relinquished, and like privileges were granted to a company, at the head of which was John Law, to whom was granted thirty-six miles square of the territory on the north side of the Arkansas River, including the Post of Arkansas, upon which, in 1721, a settlement of about two hundred and fifty immigrants was made. Subsequently, there was another post established at the mouth of the St. Francis River, by the direction of De Bienville, then Governor of Louisiana. This post was held by a strong force for a short time and then abandoned, leaving the Post of Arkansas the earliest and only settlement within the limits of the territory. In 1763, Louisiana was ceded by France to Spain, who established several military posts, one of which was on the Ouachita River; another on the Arkansas River near Webber's Falls. That government made several large grants of land extending from near the Post of Arkansas, in a northwest direction, to White River and beyond it, and including nearly all the territory between White River and the Arkansas west and within the limits of the State. The title to this vast tract of country has long been the subject of litigation, and yet remains undetermined.

Spain, in 1800, retroceded Louisiana to France; and, in 1803, the government of France ceded it to the United States for the consideration of fifteen million of dollars. This vast acquisition of territory embraced all of the territory west of the present boundary of Louisiana to the Rio del Norte, as well as what is now the States of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, the Indian Territory, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and a part of California.

Indians.

The Indians, about whom so little is known, were occupants of the country at its earliest discovery. The remains of mounds and ditches, probably made for defence, are found in various localities, and around them are parts of vessels made of clay, and others of stone, with axes, hammers, and arrowheads, all simple and of ingenious structure, but nothing to indicate that they were the work of a civilized people. At the time the United States government acquired title to this territory, the Osages, a numerous tribe of Indians, laid claim to the country from the Arkansas to the Missouri River. A band of Osages, known as the Little Osage tribe, occupied the country from the Post of Arkansas up the river, and for a considerable distance north of it. In 1808 a treaty was made with these Indians, by which they surrendered their country within the limits of Arkansas, and removed west of the present western State boundary.

The Quapaws, another numerous tribe of Indians, occupied a country south of the Arkansas River, commencing at a point some forty miles above the Post of Arkansas; thence up the Arkansas River to the city of Little Rock; thence south and east to the southwest corner of Drew County. This territory was acquired of them by treaty of 1824, and they were removed west of the State, on Red River, and settled with the Caddo Indians.

As early as 1806 a portion of the Cherokee Indians settled above Point Remove on the Arkansas River, and by treaty of July 17, 1817, acquired title to all of the country west of a line from the mouth of Point Remove on the Arkansas to a point on White River, about three miles above Batesville; thence up White River to a point where Du Buque is now located; thence west of south to the mouth of Frog Bayou. To this country a large number of Cherokees were transported from their country east of the Mississippi River; in addition to which detached bands of Shawnee and Delaware Indians occupied villages above the mouth of the Buffalo fork of White River, one of which is where Yellville, the county seat of Marion County, is located.

By treaty of 1828 the Cherokees exchanged the territory occupied by them between White River and the Arkansas, for that west of the present State line, to which they were removed, and where they yet reside. This country embraces the whole of Lovely County, which was by force of a treaty abolished, and the citizens of the county removed east of the western boundary of the State. They were indemnified

from loss by reason of such removal by a grant of three hundred and twenty acres of land to the head of each family, to be located within the limits of the State.

The Earliest Civil Government of Arkansas.

In 1804 James B. Maney was appointed Civil Governor of Arkansas, and resided at the Post of Arkansas. He was succeeded in command by Stephen Warrel, and he by Robert W. Osborn, who administered the government until the territory of Missouri was established in 1812, after which time Arkansas formed a part of Missouri territory, and the civil government of that territory extended over it.

By an Act of Congress, approved June, 1814, C. Jouette was appointed Judge for Missouri territory, to preside in the district of Arkansas. But little is known of him further than that, in 1816, he resided at the Post of Arkansas, and presided in a court held at that place, as appears from the early records of the county of Arkansas; and, after the organization of the territorial government, was appointed one of its judges.

What the population of the territory of Arkansas was in 1812 we have no means of knowing, probably not exceeding two thousand. In 1810, two years before, the white population of the territory was only nine hundred and twenty-two; the negroes one hundred and thirty-eight, total population one thousand and sixty; eight hundred and seventy-two of whom resided at the Post of Arkansas, the residue on the St. Francis.

Territorial Government.

By an act of Congress, approved March 2d, 1819, the territory of Arkansas was formed out of the territory west of the Mississippi River, and between Louisiana and Missouri, extending west about five hundred miles beyond the present State boundary. In 1824, the western boundary was reduced to within forty miles of the present western State line. A territorial government was inaugurated by the appointment of James Miller, Governor; Robert Crittenden, Secretary; and C. Jouette, Robert P. Letcher, and Andrew Scott, Judges.

The first General Assembly was held on the 11th of February, 1820, at the Post of Arkansas. At the first election, James Woodson Bates was elected delegate to Congress. At the time the territory was organized there were but five counties within the territorial limits of Arkansas—Lawrence, Arkansas, Pulaski, Clark, and Hempstead—with an aggregate population of twelve thousand and seventy-three. The seat of the territorial government was removed from the Post of

Arkansas to Little Rock, in 1821. James Miller was Governor from 1819 to 1825; George Izard, from 1825 to 1829; John Pope, from 1829 to 1835; and William S. Fulton, from 1835 to 1836, at which time Arkansas was admitted into the Union as a State.

The counties of Miller and Crawford, as originally bounded, embraced nearly all of what is now the Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Cherokee country. In 1827, a county called Lovely was formed out of that part of Crawford which lay north of the Arkansas River, and west of a line known as Brown's line, which extended from the mouth of Frog Bayou, north, to the southern boundary line of Missouri. In 1836, when the State government was formed, the population consisted of fifty-three thousand nine hundred and five white, and fifteen thousand four hundred and forty-four negroes, or a total population of sixty-nine thousand three hundred and forty-nine. The total value of taxable property was fifteen million five hundred and sixty-four thousand two hundred and eighty-four dollars.

The territorial legislature, at its session of October, 1835, passed an act to elect delegates to a constitutional convention, which met at the city of Little Rock on the 4th of January, 1836—of which John Wilson was president—and framed a constitution. This was submitted to Congress, and on the 15th of June of that year the State was, by Congress, formally admitted into the Union. At the time of its admission, there were thirty-one organized counties, including Miller County, a part of which, upon resurvey of the line between Texas and Arkansas, was found to be within the proper limits of Texas, and its organization as a county abandoned.

State Government.

The State government of Arkansas was inaugurated under the Constitution of 1836, by the election of James S. Conway, Governor; Robert Watkins, Secretary; Elias N. Conway, Auditor; William E. Woodruff, Treasurer; and of Daniel Ringo, Townsend Dickinson, and Thomas J. Lacy, Judges of the Supreme Court. The legislature was organized by the election of John Wilson President of the Senate, and Charles Caldwell Speaker of the House of Representatives.

At this time, a general system of credit and speculation prevailed; all of the banks in the southern and western States, including Arkansas, which had established two banks upon capital based upon the credit of the State, soon after suspended payment; their paper was no longer a standard of value in trade, nor receivable in the payment of debts. A general bankruptcy followed, which arrested the growth and prosperity of the State for more than ten years, and from the

effects of which it had but fairly recovered in 1860, when a dismemberment of the States was so seriously threatened, that, early in 1861, a State convention was called to consider the part Arkansas should take in the proposed dismemberment. It was the wish of a majority of her people, as expressed by the convention, to adjust the matters of difference between the States, and perpetuate their union with the national government. All propositions for secession were voted down, and provision made for holding council with such of the slave-holding States as had not passed ordinances of secession. Commissioners were appointed to hold council with them : and the convention adjourned for a time to await events, and reassemble when deemed expedient.

The bombardment of Sumter, and the call of the President for troops to suppress rebellion, were considered, in fact, the commencement of civil war, and that all efforts looking to reconciliation must fail. The convention was called together, and, on the 6th of May, 1861, with but one dissenting vote, passed an ordinance of secession, by which she assumed to sever her connection with the United States government, and to unite her fortunes with her sister States of the South. The circumstances which induced this act, and the consequences which followed it, have their appropriate places in a nation's history, and need no reference in this connection. Their effects upon the State were disastrous in the extreme. The whole country was laid waste by the armies of invasion and defence, and subsistence consumed or destroyed.

In 1865, and before the close of the war, a State government had been inaugurated within the military camps of the national army, by a small number of the State's citizens. This was in existence, and being administered, when, at the close of the war, many citizens who had left the State returned without money, and almost without the means of subsistence ; the labor system changed, and a new citizenship conferred on the emancipated slaves. Soon after, the government was superseded, in effect, by military supervision, under congressional laws of reconstruction. Under this rule, in 1868, a new constitution was framed and laws enacted, which denied to a large number of citizens the right to vote, hold office, or sit upon juries, and of attorneys to practise law in the courts. Under this proscriptive system of government, peace and prosperity could not follow ; but afterwards, in 1874, when these disabilities were removed, and the right of suffrage and to hold office conferred without discrimination, peace, good government, and unprecedented prosperity followed.

In 1850, the entire population was two hundred and nine thousand, eight hundred and ninety-seven; in 1860, four hundred and thirty-five thousand, four hundred and fifty; in 1870, four hundred and eighty-seven thousand four hundred and seventy-one; showing an increase of only fifty-two thousand, in ten years—five of which was a period of revolution—when in a little more than five years after, as estimated by the vote of the last election, the population now exceeds six hundred thousand, with a corresponding increase of wealth.

Early Settlers of the Territory.

The first settlers of Arkansas territory were French who settled near the Post of Arkansas. They were an enterprising and energetic people, mostly engaged in trade. Many of them accumulated fortunes, and their descendants now form an estimable class of society. The next in order were pioneer settlers of Tennessee and Kentucky, or their immediate descendants, a brave, self-reliant, and independent people, many of them too fond of adventure and the chase to make permanent locations or valuable improvements.

I was with them in early territorial times; made the acquaintance of many of them, and learned their habits, customs, and peculiar characteristics. They had penetrated the country beyond and in advance of organized government, or, if within it, were too far from the officers of the law and of the courts, to be reached by legal process. Thus situated, but resolutely determined to suppress crime, and preserve good order, by common consent they had rules of government under which crime was summarily punished, and contracts enforced. The payment of a debt was a matter of honor; and to their credit be it said, there were but few instances in which contracts were violated. No one felt absolved from his obligation to pay, who had money or property, or could procure it.

There is another matter of pioneer history worthy of note, which is, that whatever acts of crime and violence may have been committed, such as are but too common among an uncultivated, bold, and self-reliant people, they were almost invariably open, defiant, and under the influence of passion and resentment, resulting from real or supposed wrong. There is not an instance of assassination, of robbery, or of burglary, to be found upon the territorial records.

The early settlements were often miles apart, and, when necessity required, the cabin doors were temporarily closed with a latch or a pin, and the household effects of the family were left for days, and even weeks, without molestation. In the summer months, when at home, they slept with doors and windows open in perfect security.

A frank, honest, and generous people, hospitable to a fault, and like the Scotch Highlanders felt—

“That guidance, and food, and rest, and fire,
In vain the stranger must never require.”

To-day it is a privilege and a pleasure to greet one of the few surviving pioneers of territorial times. There were also among them gentlemen of the learned professions, merchants, and traders, some of whom were educated and of refined manners; all of them hospitable and social.

Climature.

Arkansas is situated in the valley west of the Mississippi River, between latitude north 33° and $36^{\circ} 30'$, and longitude west $89^{\circ} 40'$ and $94^{\circ} 42'$, and has a climate so mild that its streams in winter are not closed by ice, and in which the laborer may, without shelter, ply his toil throughout the entire year. It is confessedly the most agreeable latitude found north of the equator. The mean temperature at Little Rock—which is situated at the foot of the mountain range—and that south and east of it, is $63^{\circ} 32'$ Fahrenheit; that of the northern and northwestern portion of the State is about 60° . The repeated refreshing showers of rain and currents of fresh air, which usually prevail in the summer months, are highly conducive to health and comfort, more particularly so in the mountain region, where a light, fresh atmosphere, bright skies, and diversified scenery of mountains and plains, invigorate the system and enliven the imagination.

It is in the southwestern range of mountains, and about sixty miles from the city of Little Rock that the celebrated Hot Springs rise, fifty-seven in number, and discharge five hundred thousand gallons of water daily, with a temperature from 93° to 150° Fahrenheit. In close proximity are cool, fresh water, chalybeate and sulphur springs, all places of resort, and justly held in the highest estimation. Certainly nowhere on this continent, nor, indeed, elsewhere, can so rich a boon to suffering humanity be found. To describe these springs, and give even an outline of their mineral and curative properties, would require more time than could be properly bestowed on this occasion. If it were possible for Arkansas to bring to this exhibition her hot springs; if they were here to be seen and admired, as her agricultural and mineral wealth is, she would stand in this respect peerless. The Hot Springs of Arkansas have already become a place of general resort and of established reputation. Under the disadvantages of a long contest of title for this property, a city

has already grown up, and now, since it has been determined that the title is in the United States, we have presented the anomalous condition of the government as landlord, and the late claimants and those holding under them, as tenants, at a price for the privilege of occupying tenements which they had erected. When this condition of affairs is changed (as it must be), and these springs are set apart by the government to be used perpetually by the afflicted millions who may come, drink, bathe, and be healed, without money and without price; and when individual title is acquired to the property around it, a city inferior to none in the State will in a short time be built. It is in this district of country, too, that crystals, bones, and magnets are found, specimens of which we have now on exhibition.

Rivers and Transportation.

The Mississippi River bounds the entire State on the east; the St. Francis, Black, and White Rivers, with their tributaries, on the north and west; the Arkansas River runs from the northwest to the southeast through the entire State; Saline, Ouachita, and Bartholomew on the southeast, and Red River and its tributaries on the southwest. These rivers afford facilities for travel and transportation at most seasons, and some of them during the entire year. In addition to these we have railroads extending from east to west, and from north to south, through the entire State, from Pine Bluff to the Mississippi River, from Helena to White River, and from Malvern to Hot Springs, completed and in operation, besides other important routes surveyed and under contract for completion.

Timber.

Yellow poplar is nowhere found in this State, except on or near Croley's Ridge, a narrow tract extending from Helena to the Missouri line. Beech and sugar-maple are not general growths of the State, but are occasionally found on the creek and river bottoms, and rich hill-sides. Oak and hickory of every variety, walnut, cherry, and ash, are abundant in all the timbered portions of the State, with cottonwood and pecan in the river bottoms, and cypress in large quantities in the swamps and margins of the lakes. Pine is not found in large quantities north of the Arkansas River valley, except in a tract of country north of White River, and between Rocky Bayou and the Big North fork of White River. On the south side of the Arkansas River, it grows on most of the uplands, in large quantities and of the finest quality.

Minerals.

The mineral resources of the State are, as yet, but partially developed, and are most frequently found north and west of a line from northwest to southeast, which separates the older from the alluvial or later formations. Silver, iron, lead, zinc, copper, manganese, coal, slate, marble, novaculite, sulphur, nitre, and salt are found in this mountain region. Silver in small quantities with lead, to the amount of fifty ounces to the ton, is also found. Lead abounds in many localities; the ore is in pockets, often near the surface, and occasionally growing in the crevices of limestone above it. Like the lead mines of Missouri, which are in close proximity, no regular veins have been discovered. It is believed by geologists and men of science that mines of exhaustless wealth may be discovered by deeper mining. Nowhere, so far as I am informed, has the earth been penetrated a hundred feet in search of mineral. Iron ore abounds in many localities, upon or near the surface, and in exhaustless quantities. Its quality has been tested and found good.

No extensive bodies of coal have as yet been discovered north of the Arkansas River valley. Dr. Owen, the State Geologist, estimates the coal region in the State at twelve thousand square miles. The largest body of coal discovered is that in the valley of the Arkansas River, which extends from the eastern boundary of the State, for more than a hundred miles east, and outside of the alluvial lands is almost an uninterrupted coal field. Coal is most frequently found from within six to twenty feet of the surface, and in veins varying in thickness, from one to six feet. Much of it is of superior quality, and in market brings the highest cash price. The Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad, which passes on the north side of the river over its entire extent, furnishes, with the Arkansas River, ample facilities for its transportation. It is quite probable that, in a few years, a population equal to the entire State as at present estimated, will find profitable employment in mining coal, and in the manufacturing establishments near the mines, supplied with cheap fuel from them. Marble of superior quality and in exhaustless quantities has been discovered in Boone and Newton Counties, a block of which has been placed in the Washington monument.

This vast source of wealth must remain valueless until reached by cheap transportation. Without further enumeration, it may in truth be said, that but few States present a wider, more varied, or a richer field for profitable investment in mining than Arkansas.

Lands.

The area of square miles in Arkansas is 52,189, or 33,406,720 acres. Of this amount the United States owns seven million seven hundred and sixty-two thousand, which are subject to entry. There have been granted by the United States to railroad companies, two million nine hundred and twenty-six thousand four hundred acres. But a small amount of this, however, has yet been sold and entered for taxation, from which, for many years, it has remained exempt; but which when taxed, as it must be, will greatly enhance the revenue of the State.

Of the grants made by the United States to the State of Arkansas, there remain seventy-one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two acres, to which the title has been perfected, and which are now subject to sale; and one million five hundred thousand, to which the title of the State has not been perfected. In addition to these the State owns two million eight hundred and eighty-one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six acres of land, which have been forfeited for the non-payment of taxes, and, if not redeemed by the 14th of December next, will be subject to sale or donation. These, with the eighteen million of acres of land sold by the United States, and at present assessed for taxation, with perhaps a small amount of lands homesteaded by individuals and not assessed, may be considered as the sum total of the lands subject to taxation in the State. Of the eighteen million which have been assessed for taxation by the State, two million one hundred thousand acres are improved and in cultivation, and estimated as worth \$55,000,000, with an average productive capacity of twenty-five dollars per acre.

Face of the Country and its Productions.

The whole extent of country, from the Mississippi River west to the foot of the mountains (half or more than half of the State), is level or gently rolling, and in many places affords unmistakable evidence of comparatively recent formation. In some localities, trees at the depth of twenty feet are found imbedded in alluvial deposits. In others, and more particularly in the southern part of the State, are deposits of submarine shells, upon or near the surface, and now partially decayed, and greatly enriching the soil. This whole extent of country, in soil, climate and local position, is well adapted to cultivation, much of it being alluvial and highly productive. Over its whole extent, cotton, corn, wheat, oats, and vegetables are produced.

The great staple product of the State is cotton. In the north-western part of the State it is grown for home consumption; in all

others for transportation. The yield per acre is from a half to one and a half bales. None of the southern States (Texas excepted) has a greater area of good cotton land; none certainly which yields more to the acre, or lint of finer texture.

Much of this land has never been opened for cultivation. That all of it must soon be cultivated, is as certain as that demand in excess of supply invites capital and labor. The States in which cotton is grown are comparatively few. No other territory on the continent is now open, which will profitably produce it. Large districts, which when first opened for cultivation, produced cotton for market, now scarcely raise it for home consumption. It has been long known that when the virgin soil becomes worn and exhausted, vegetation is of slower growth, and often in a premature state injured or destroyed by frost. The southern part of Kentucky and of Virginia, and the northern part of Tennessee and North Carolina, afford striking evidence of this truth. Where thousands of bales were once exported, now there is none raised. The demand has already been greatly increased to supply the vast population of the western and north-western States, so rapidly growing in numbers and wealth, and with this increased demand, the enhanced value of the staple will insure a more extensive cultivation.

Corn is extensively grown in all parts of the State. The yield is from twenty-five to sixty-five bushels per acre, and is consumed for bread and in feeding stock for market. Wheat is grown in many parts of the State, but more abundantly in the north and northwest, and yields from six to thirty-five bushels per acre. Tobacco is more profitably grown in the northwest, and produces from eight hundred to twelve hundred pounds per acre of good quality. There are but four States in which the yield is greater. It is, at present, grown in largely increased quantities, and with wheat is estimated as a staple product of the country. Oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, and millet are profitable products. The cultivation of the grape has been to a great extent confined to this district of country. The yield of timothy is about one ton per acre; red-top about half a ton. Red clover grows luxuriantly, may be twice mowed in the season, and makes a good fall pasture. Bene grass grows well on clay, limestone soil, and furnishes good pasturage. Experiments made on all the clay stiff lands in other parts of the State have proven successful. Vegetables of every variety are produced in abundance.

White River, Little Red River, Arkansas, Petit Jean, Fourche La Pave, Saline, Ouachita, and Little Missouri Rivers, all rise in the west and flow through the mountain valleys of the western portion of

the State. Their bottoms are generally wide and fertile, particularly those of the Arkansas River. Wide tracts of table lands, prairies, barrens, and timber, are from six to twelve miles wide on each side of the river. Numerous small streams flow into these rivers, and have alluvial bottoms of great fertility.

In the northwestern counties, there are extensive tracts of prairie and timbered upland, based on a clay foundation and highly productive. Springs of cool, never-failing water are found in all the mountain regions, and furnish to the creeks and rivers a never-failing supply of water in volumes sufficient to propel machinery at all seasons. The Ozark Mountains through which these streams pass, and the wide prairie valleys between them, are picturesque and attractive.

The atmosphere is fresh and invigorating; good health prevails everywhere in this region. Here fruits, grain, grass, and vegetables attain their highest perfection. Grapes in great variety are native growths of the mountains; when cultivated they mature well, and yield a large profit to the cultivator. The peach is an uncertain crop, and seems better adapted to the more southern climate. Apples and pears mature finely, are extensively raised, and of unsurpassed size and flavor. This part of the State may well be called the Switzerland of America. An intelligent traveller who spent some weeks in these mountains, described the valleys between them as the American Vale of Cashmere. It is here that the Arkansas Industrial University is located.

The aggregate amount of our staple crops, per annum, is, of cotton, 337,672 bales, of four hundred pounds to the bale; of corn, 15,000,000 bushels; of wheat, 1,000,000 bushels; besides oats, rye, buckwheat, hay, fruits, and vegetables.

Manufactures.

It is a conceded fact that manufacturing is most profitably conducted on the spot where the raw material is grown, and where cheap fuel for steam power abounds; hence we find Lowell with her vast water power; Pittsburg with her iron ore and coal; Augusta, Georgia, in the midst of her cotton fields; Lynchburg surrounded by her tobacco fields; and Lexington by her hemp growing lands, all largely and profitably employed in manufacturing. Arkansas combines these advantages; her cotton and coal being found in the same district, and wherever so found, manufacturing may be conducted profitably. Spadra and other points on the Little Rock and Fort Smith railroad, in the coal district, present these advantages.

The rivers which flow from the mountains of the west and northwest

afford facilities for manufacturing the forest of mountain timber, through which they pass. In the middle and southern portion of the State, cheap and speedy transportation by railroad and river, concentrate at Little Rock, and point to it as the great manufacturing city of the State, more particularly for the manufacture of cotton, near which large quantities of it are grown, and to which coal can be easily transported. Whatever the reasons, heretofore, for withholding capital for this purpose may have been, it is certain that none now exist. We have a State government firmly established under a liberal and well-devised constitution, one which limits taxation for all purposes in any one year to fifteen mills on the dollar; secures to all of its citizens the largest liberty consistent with good government; one which encourages manufacture; provides liberally for education, and protects the free exercise of religious worship; one under which crime is suppressed, and civil rights protected. Peace and good order prevail throughout the State among all classes. The occasional contests for party supremacy in government, like the lashing of ocean waves, do but purify the body politic and keep it healthy.

Education.

The Arkansas Industrial University, established in accordance with an act of Congress, making a grant of land as an endowment, and in accordance with an act of the General Assembly of Arkansas, has been located at Fayetteville, in Washington County. It is an edifice of brick, five stories high, two hundred and fourteen feet in length, with a depth of wings one hundred and twenty-two feet, and in architecture and finish is not surpassed by any building in the Western States. The grant of lands by Congress; the bonds of Washington County and town of Fayetteville, and the appropriations made by the State, amount in value to three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. One of the leading objects of Congress in making the grant, was, without excluding scientific and classical studies, to impart a knowledge of agriculture and the mechanic arts, and to advance the education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life. It is a State institution, under the supervision of a board of trustees elected by the legislature; and by legislative enactment provision is made for the education of two hundred and thirty-seven beneficiaries, apportioned among the several counties according to population. Under the provisions of the act of Congress, it is also required that military tactics be taught. The location is a most eligible one; it is largely attended, and in a flourishing condition.

Judsonia University, located in White County; St. John's College

and Little Rock Female College, in the city of Little Rock, and Cane Hill College at Boonesboro', in Washington County, are chartered institutions of high reputation, and in a flourishing condition. In addition to which there are high schools of education taught in most of the counties; and a general system of free schools is, by legislative enactment, sustained at public expense. In 1872, there were two thousand three hundred and two teachers, and one hundred and seven thousand, nine hundred and eight pupils taught. This is the latest estimate at my command.

Newspapers.

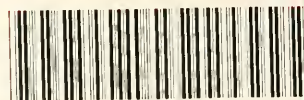
There are published in Arkansas sixty-five newspapers, seven of which are issued daily.

A wider range of discussion might have been indulged, and reference made to dates and incidents connected with the State's history, but I have preferred to limit my remarks to such incidents as would best illustrate the character of its inhabitants, its resources and present condition. Such we have seen is the early history of the country, territory, and State; such its geographical position, climate, inhabitants, and material wealth—a wealth which remains unimpaired through all the vicissitudes of bankruptcy and revolution through which she has passed. She has heartily accepted the invitation to join in the celebration of the birth-day of American independence; she has drawn freely and largely upon her limited resources, to erect buildings in which are presented specimens of her agricultural and mineral wealth, and forests of timber which challenge competition, and invite capital and enterprise. They speak more eloquently for Arkansas and her prospective future of greatness, than I have been enabled to do. Blest as the State is with a good government; protected by laws of her people's making, administered by officers elected by their free suffrage, upon principles of sovereignty announced in the Declaration of American Independence, which at the close of a century we are here to celebrate, and at the commencement of another, I do in their behalf express what I know to be their earnest desire, that the great principles of civil liberty, therein enunciated, may be perpetuated under a united and prosperous government, National and State.





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